

TANF Analysis:

Report on Engagement in Additional Work Activities – March 2011

BACKGROUND

The Claims Resolution Act of 2010, P.L. 111-291, requires each state to prepare two reports on TANF adults (referred to as “work eligible”) engaged in additional work activities that are designed toward attaining self-sufficiency. Each report is comprised of three sections: A - Summary; B - Analysis; and C - Summary of Common Non-Countable Activities.

States must collect and report the following information: (1) whether the individual engages in any activities that are directed toward attaining self-sufficiency and (2) if yes, the specific activities that (a) do not qualify as a countable work activity, but are otherwise reasonably calculated to help the family move to self-sufficiency or (b) that could be a countable work activity, but for the fact that either the work-eligible has not engaged in such activities for a sufficient number of hours; the work-eligible individual has reached a maximum time limit allowed for having participation in the activity count; or the number of work-eligible individuals engaged in such activity exceeds a statutory limitation.

The first report covers the month of March 2011 and the second report covers the period of April through June 2011. The March report is due no later than May 31, 2011 and the April-June report is due no later than August 31, 2011. States must publish these reports on their TANF website. Washington’s TANF website is located at the following location:

<http://www.workfirst.wa.gov/about/tanf.asp>

MARCH 2011 REPORT

Section A - Summary

“(A) a summary of the information submitted in the report:”

For the month of March 2011, there were 37,341 families that were subject to the TANF work participation requirements. Within those families, there were 43,802 work eligible adults. The number of work eligible adults includes adults in two-parent families; therefore there are more work eligible adults than families. The following table reflects each data element of the required report and the number of work eligible adults in each data element. It also includes the percent that each number represents in relation to the total number of work eligible adults in data element 7. It is important to note that the sum of data elements 8 through 14C will not equal the total in 7, because an adult can be reported under one or more categories.

6.	Number of families on the monthly sample.	37,341
7.	Number of work eligible adults in families on the monthly sample frame.	43,802
8.	Participating in countable work activities for sufficient hours for the family to count toward the work participation rate:	2,712
9.	Unreported hours of participation in a countable activity:	0
10.	Insufficient hours of participation in countable work activities:	7,131
11.	Countable hours beyond the statutory limit:	3,258
12.	Hours of participation in countable work activities that do not meet verification standard:	13,547
13.	Participating in non-countable activities but move the family toward self-sufficiency:	8,217
14A.	Participating in a countable activity or a non-countable activity:	25,037
14A.	Not participating in a countable activity or a non-countable activity:	18,765
14B.	Principal reason for non-participation:	
	01 = Family’s first month on assistance and no work activity assigned	1,272
	02 = Individual assigned to a work activity that has not yet begun	93
	03 = State/Local agency (or its contractor) has failed to engage individual	n/a
	04 = Individual relocating from one local jurisdiction within State to another	224
	05 = Work activities reports received too late for inclusion in report to HHS	0
	06 = Family disregarded from participation rate	5,034
	07 = State exempt, single custodial parent with child under age 1, not disregarded due to 12-month limitation	2,213
	08 = Individual in process of being sanctioned (including fair hearing process) or is subject to a sanction	2,250

09 = State exempt, single custodial parent with child under age 6 & child care unavailable	39
10 = State exempt due to illness or disability of the WEI (including, but not limited to, in process	2,082
11 = State exempt, due to illness or disability of child or other family member	1
12 = State exempt under a domestic violence waiver	62
13 = Good Cause Exemption	331
14 = Other State Exemption	n/a
99 = Other	4,705
14C. Specify Other Reason:	
<i>Being Referred to a Work Activity</i>	2,391
<i>Client in Last Month of TANF Assistance</i>	770
<i>Client in First Month of TANF Assistance</i>	35
<i>Not a TANF Recipient (Work-Eligible Individual Indicator not equal to "1")</i>	1
<i>Case Eligible after Month Begin</i>	265
<i>Client Exempt, Pregnant</i>	640
<i>Client Exempt, Work Status</i>	104
<i>Client Exempt, Aged 55+</i>	12
<i>Two-Parent: Other Parent Participating</i>	487
Unknown	459

Section B - Analysis

“(B) an analysis statement regarding the extent to which the information changes measures of total engagement in work activities from what was (or will be) reported by the State in the quarterly report submitted under subsection (a) for the comparable period; and”

Hours Refresh Process:

Because of the timing for the submission of the reports, the report will report fewer hours of participation. The March report was prepared using data that was collected in May. Under our reporting process, this would be our 1st refresh of the March data. The result is to capture the majority of hours for the month of March, but it will not include the final refresh of the data that is scheduled to occur in June.

Needy State Status:

At the time of this report, Washington has not been deemed a “needy state” by the Administration for Children and Families for the month of March. The effect is to limit the countable hours under the Job Search / Job Readiness category to 6 weeks (120 hours for a single custodial parent with a child under age 6, and 180 for all others). We anticipate being notified of our status as a “needy state” to be received in the near future and the hour limit will increase to 12 weeks (240 hours for a single custodial parent with a child under age 6, and 360 for all others). This will result in an increase in the number of adults that are participating in Job Search / Job Readiness, Life Skills Training, DVD/DDR Planning, Alcohol / Substance Abuse Treatment, Family Violence Intervention, Mental Health Services, and Learning Disability Services.

This will reduce the number of adults being reported under the federal Other Work Activities (reporting element P63) and move them into the countable activities of Job Search / Job Readiness (reporting element P55).

State Approved Self-Sufficiency Activities:

This report will contain self-sufficiency activities that are not contained in the TANF data report. These are activities that are deemed to help families prepare for employment and to achieve self-sufficiency, but do not fall within the existing permissible TANF work activities.

Under the existing TANF regulations, the 12 permissible work activities:

- (1) Unsubsidized employment;
- (2) Subsidized private sector employment;
- (3) Subsidized public sector employment;

- (4) Work experience (including work associated with the refurbishing of publicly assisted housing) if sufficient private sector employment is not available;
- (5) On-the-job training;
- (6) Job search and job readiness assistance;
- (7) Community service programs;
- (8) Vocational educational training (not to exceed 12 months with respect to any individual);
- (9) Job skills training directly related to employment;
- (10) Education directly related to employment, in the case of a recipient who has not received a high school diploma or a certificate of high school equivalency;
- (11) Satisfactory attendance at secondary school or in a course of study leading to a certificate of general equivalence, in the case of a recipient who has not completed secondary school or received such a certificate; and
- (12) The provision of child care services to an individual who is participating in a community service program.

State recognized self-sufficiency activities include issue resolution and barrier removal which do not fall within the definition Job Readiness Assistance as the result of changes mandated by the Deficit Reduction Act. These activities are intended to help the individual find ways to participate in WorkFirst activities while also assuring the family's other needs are addressed.

Issue resolution begins with identifying potential barriers or issues that may interfere with their ability to participate in countable work activities. When issues are identified, necessary supports are provided to help the parent engage in activities that will lead to employment. Employment remains a major focus with self-sufficiency as the ultimate goal.

Section C – Summary of Common Non-Countable Activities

“(C) a narrative describing the most common activities contained in the report that are not countable toward the State participation rates under section 407.”

The most common activities that are not countable toward the work participation rate are reported under data element 13, Participating in activities that do not qualify as countable activities but move the family toward self-sufficiency. There are 9 state activities that are permissible under the WorkFirst Program but which do not meet federal criteria.

The largest category of activities involved parenting programs and personal development activities which do not meet the definition of Job Skills Preparation. These activities help adults prepare for work or enhance personal development to help the adult become job ready.

13f	Family life skills activities, e.g., teen parent skills, parenting programs, mentoring, personal development activities, organization skills workshops, and budgeting skills workshops.	6,199	75.4%
	Pregnancy-to-Employment (PI)	1,102	13.4%
	Job Search Preparation (RI)	4,950	60.2%
	Parenting Skills, Nutrition Classes & Family Planning for Pregnant Clients (XP)	265	3.2%

The next largest category of activity was treatment for short-term physical incapacity or medical assessment including treatment which prohibits the adult from being able to work or look for work.

13e	Treatment Activities (e.g., physical or mental health, substance abuse treatment, domestic violence, physical or developmental disabilities, attending to physical or mental health conditions)	1,124	13.7%
	Temporary Physical Incapacity, Medical Treatment (XM)	1,124	13.7%

The third largest category of activity involves adults that are being assessed for other types of benefits that would reduce or eliminate their need to receive TANF. This includes being assessed for a facilitated SSI application or accepted for a facilitated SSI application.

13h	In Assessment	737	9.0%
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Pursuing SSI, Labor & Industries, Veterans or Other Benefits (XB)	737	9.0%
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The next group involves adults (including teen parents) who are accessing work support activities such as resolving homelessness by finding stable housing so they can work or look for work, obtaining citizenship verification for adults that do not have Medicaid coverage because of their citizenship and who have an activity requirement that is dependent on Medicaid coverage, or elimination of barriers for teen parents so that they can continue their high school or GED completion.

13g	Accessing Work Support Activities such as finding childcare, obtaining, and a driver's license.	224	2.7%
	Citizenship Verification (CV)	2	0%
	Teen Parent Barrier Removal (TP)	0	0%
	Resolution of homelessness (XH)	222	2.7%

The final group are those adults attending English as a second language activity combined with other activities.

13c	Adult Basic Education / English as a Second Language	206	2.5%
	English as a Second Language (ES)	206	2.5%